



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

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More Kids Now Eligible for Low-Cost Health Insurance

DES MOINES, Iowa— Department of Human Services Director Charles Krogmeier is urging parents to check out the department's popular children's health insurance program now that higher income eligibility limits are in place.

As of July 1, the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa—*hawk-i*—insurance program is expanded to uninsured children in families with incomes of up to 300 percent of federal poverty levels, compared to 200 percent before. For a family of three, the new income limit is nearly \$53,000.

Parents pay a premium depending on income. For families with incomes between 150 percent and 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines, the premium is \$10 a month for one child or a maximum of \$20 a month for two or more children. For families in the 200 percent to 300 percent bracket, the premiums will be \$20 or \$40 a month.

"We know that having health insurance for kids is a huge stress reliever for parents, and we also know that kids who are covered are healthier than kids who aren't.

"Thanks to action by the legislature and Gov. Culver, thousands of additional Iowa children are now eligible for *hawk-i*," Krogmeier said.

"So my message is, 'Check us out. Make the call or apply online,'" he said. To apply online, go to http://www.hawk-i.org/en_US/apply.html#. Or call toll-free 1-800-257-8563.

Iowa is already among the nation's leaders in health insurance for all children. The group Families USA reported that Iowa was No. 2, with about 95 percent of children covered by either private or government insurance.

There are currently about 42,000 children in Iowa's children's health insurance program, which includes *hawk-i*. An additional 193,000 children are covered by Medicaid.

DHS has been taking applications under the new guidelines for several weeks, and coverage for about 150 children begins Wednesday. Letters are being sent to hundreds of families who were recently denied coverage because their incomes did not meet former guidelines.

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